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Did You Know?

There are [12 common FAFSA mistakes](#).

Too many people are making error #4. Don't let this be your student!

GEAR UP UPDATES

- **Now Open! [Washington State GEAR UP Champion Awards!](#)** Encourage students to apply! Nominate an educator! Winners receive a free trip to NCCEP in San Francisco this summer.
- **Missed the Webinars? View Recordings:**
 - [College Goal Washington Site Lead Training](#)
 - [College Application Campaign Site Lead Training](#)
 - [2016-17 FAFSA Completion Training](#)
 - [2016-17 Senior Cycle Webinar](#)
- **FYI: [GEAR UP West Conference](#).** Don't forget to register and reserve your hotel room. The [Red Lion at the Park](#) will honor the conference rate. Call 1-800-RED-LION and identify yourself as a GEAR UP West attendee. All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card.
- **Free Workshop! Preparing Students for the Jobs of the Future.** Oct. 28, ESD 113. [See attachment.](#)

OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Save the Date: [2016 Washington Financial Aid Association \(WFAA\) Conference](#).** With all the coming changes in financial aid, you won't want to miss this opportunity. Oct. 12-14, Spokane.
- **Save the Date: [5th Annual Beyond HB 1079 Conference](#).** Open to undocumented HS/college students, family members, educators, and community members/advocates. UW Seattle, Oct. 15.
- **OSPI/WSAC Wednesday Webinars for School Counselors: [Financial Aid Updates](#).** Learn more about the changes to the 2017-2018 FAFSA and WASFA and the resources available through the 12th Year Campaign. Will also discuss the FAFSA Completion Portal. Oct 19, 10:30 AM.
- **Save the Date: [OSPI Fall Regional Workshops for School Counselors](#).** For high school counselors, dual credit program leaders and principals with focus on balancing information and activity-based learning. Olympia-Oct. 12, Spokane, Oct. 13, Renton-Oct. 17, & Yakima- Oct. 21.

RESOURCES

- **[2016-17 Fall Counselor Workshop - Higher Education Book](#).** This book provides descriptions of 2- and 4-year public and private, non-profit institutions of higher education in Washington State.
- **WAGU Featured Resource: [Preparing Students with Disabilities for Postsecondary Education](#).** Designed to assist those who work with high school students with disabilities who plan to continue their education in postsecondary institutions, including vocational and career schools, two- and four- year colleges, and universities.
- **[Form Your Future](#).** NCAN's new national FAFSA completion campaign goes live Sept. 30. The website will have dozens of resources to aid in your FAFSA work, from outreach templates to event guides to filing tips. Be sure to follow Form Your Future on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

IN THE NEWS

Please send any media coverage to Katherine at katherinek@wsac.wa.gov. We want to feature you here and in our newsroom: <http://gearup.wa.gov/news>.

- [GEAR UP EDI Summer Programs Help Students Prepare for College](#). EDI hosted a professional development conference for educators, a college exploration camp, and a high school leadership development program
- [Spokane Public Schools Recognized For Improving Equality In AP Courses](#). The U.S. Department of Education recognized Spokane as one of the first districts in the nation to commit to including students of all backgrounds in AP courses.
- [ELL Graduation Rates Are Best In State](#). English learners in Everett Public Schools are graduating above state and other districts.
- [From Retention to Persistence](#). Three major experiences shape student motivation to stay in college and graduate, writes Vincent Tinto.
- [See Me As I Am](#). Kids tell us what it's like to be multiracial in Seattle
- [How Native Students Can Succeed In College](#). Be as tough as the land that made you.
- [Virtual Classrooms Can Be as Unequal as Real Ones](#). Online courses are praised for their potential to make education accessible to everyone—but they're leaving students behind.
- [Yale's New Application Questions Give Away the Key Things Elite Colleges Want to See from Students](#). What is a community to which you belong? Reflect on the footprint that you have left.
- [Michelle Obama Is Not Here For Your Mental Health Stigma](#). Asking for help is always a sign of strength. See also: [Here's How Schools Can Support Students' Mental Health](#).
- [Record Number Of Colleges Now Have ACT/SAT 'Optional' Or 'Flexible' Admissions Policies](#). Reasons include concern about how using test scores affects minorities and too much emphasis on a single standardized test score.
- [Why Is Seattle So Racially Segregated?](#) Drive from south Seattle to the north end, and you might notice how the racial population changes.
- [Foster Care Crisis](#). More than a decade after the courts ordered the state to clean up its foster care program, kids are still left rootless, vulnerable.
- [Analysis: 1 in 5 High Schoolers Is Chronically Absent](#). Here's what data shows about those kids.
- [Student Diversity at More Than 4,600 Institutions](#). The figures are from the Education Department's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES

- **For schools:** [Academic Acceleration Grant](#). Grants available to develop new capacity for dual credit courses. iGrant application #661. **Due Sept. 30.**
- **For schools:** [College Ready Math Initiative: Intensified Algebra and Academic Youth Development](#). Intensified Algebra I and Academic Youth Development programs for middle and/or high school students from Agile Mind curriculum is available through OSPI's iGrant #774. Due Oct. 12.

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DUE
QuestBridge National College Match	Online platform that helps outstanding low-income HS seniors gain admission and full 4-year scholarships to some of the nation's most selective colleges.	9/27
Disney Friends for Change Grants	Offers young change-makers \$500 to gather their friends and turn their creative ideas to help their communities into projects. Youth ages 5-18 located in all 50 states and DC are eligible.	9/30
Don't Text and Drive Scholarship	Open to HS students in grades 9-12 and current college or graduate school students. Must complete a short form and share a 140-character statement explaining why they will not text and drive. \$1,000.	9/30
Odenza Marketing Group Scholarship	Must submit 2 small essays, one related to travel, & the other on why they deserve a scholarship. Must be 16-25, w/ 2.5 GPA or greater. US citizenship required. \$500.	9/30

Scholarship Poetry Contest	Open to all U.S. HS students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less. Up to \$500.	9/30
Shout It Out Scholarship	Open to students 13 years of age or older who are legal residents of the 50 US or the DC and are currently enrolled (or will enroll no later than the fall of 2021) in an accredited post-secondary institution of higher education. Applicant will need to submit a short response to a given prompt. \$1,500.	9/30
U.S. Bank Scholarship Program	Complete a series of Financial Genius for Life online learning modules for a chance to win \$20,000.	9/30
Courage to Grow Scholarship	\$500 scholarship given monthly for HS juniors or seniors with a 2.5 GPA or better; requires an essay	9/30
Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards	For HS seniors who identify as Hispanic/Latinx. Min. 3.0 GPA. Must be a US Citizen/Permanent Resident/ qualify under DACA. \$1,000 to \$3,000.	10/2.
Golden Door Scholars Scholarship for Undocumented Students	Funding cover tuition and room & board for a 4-year degree. Get access to internships and other career-building opportunities. Must be eligible for DACA.	10/3
Counselors- WSU Regents Scholarship	All eligible nominees will receive a four-year Regents Program scholarship and have the opportunity to compete for a Distinguished Regents Scholar Award.	10/14
Lexus and Scholastic Launch Contest for Middle and HS Students - Land & Water Challenge	STEM contest for 6-12 grades. This challenge is an educational program and contest designed to inspire and empower students to learn about the environment and take action to improve it. Awardees will receive a total of \$500,000 in grants and scholarships.	10/17
LEAP 1% Scholarship Fund	For Latino/a/x students. \$1,000-\$5,000. Must graduate this spring & enroll in college next fall.	10/21
Horatio Alger Scholarship	Provides six \$5,000 scholarships to students who have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity and who aspire to pursue higher education.	10/25
Coca-Cola Scholarships	50 four-year \$20,000 scholarships and 200 four-year \$10,000 scholarships. Students are recognized for their capacity to lead and serve, and their commitment to making a significant impact on their schools and communities.	10/31
Washington Women in Need Education Grant for Winter	For WA females age 18 or over who are admitted into or registered at an accredited education institution in Washington state. \$5,000.	10/31
Apply for the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest.	Past finalist include Neah Bay HS. Help another Washington school make it all the way to the finals!	10/31
Disney Dreamers Academy Applications.	For young leaders (ages 13- 19) with a winning combination of attributes that reflect strong character, positive attitude, and persistence to take advantage of opportunities.	10/31

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES! To view the Calendar of Events for WAGU and also partner events related to access, visit: <http://www.gearup.wa.gov/calendar>.

- [Saint Martin's Open House](#). Oct. 2.
- [WSU Fall Preview](#). Oct. 3
- [EWU Fall Information Night: Yakima](#). Oct. 4.
- [Pacific Lutheran University: Fall Preview](#). Oct. 4.
- [Perry Tech Open House](#). Oct. 8
- [PNACAC Regional College Fair](#). Oct. 21-22- Seattle, Oct. 25- Spokane, Oct. 23- Portland.

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